Talk America

▶ Products

Select a Talk America Product Below:

Residential United Unlimited Plus, Unlimited and 1000 Plans

Enjoy savings on your local and long distance service plus unlimited free member-to-member interstate long distance calling (Voice Only), 3.9¢ a minute long distance and more. Don't miss out on these exciting savings programs! Click here to determine which plans are available in your area.

Residential Long Distance

Talk America offers a great long distance program to fit your calling needs. Enjoy low rates combined with excellent call quality, secure online access to your account and call records, free calling cards and more.

United Small Business Bundle

Your small business can enjoy savings on local and long distance service plus free member-to-member long distance calling (up to 1000 minutes every month) and more. Don't miss out on this new opportunity! Click here for more information.

International Savings Plans

Talk America offers two unique International Savings Plans to suit your needs. Check out our great rates!

Conference Calling

Talk America Conference Calling enables you to schedule and launch telephone conference calls directly from your PC and save money! Enjoy online whiteboard capabilities, interactive chat, presentations and more!

Personal 800 Number

Talk America customers can purchase a personal 800 at any time by simply contacting a customer service representative at 800-728-3288.

▶ Internet Service
As an exclusive offer to customers with both local and long distance service, Talk America offers Internet Service, E-Mail accounts and free personal web space.

▶ Wireless
Browse through the Talk America Wireless Store for the great deals in wireless phones and plans, two-way radios, pagers, accessories and more.

▶ Online Directory Services
Search for names, addresses, maps, and more - all online!

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Our Network

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US LEC

Voice. Data. Internet.

About Us

Network overview

Network map

The US LEC network is composed of advanced digital switches from Lucent Technologies Inc. US LEC's technicians are rapidly expanding the network in selected and peripheral markets across the southeastern and mid-Atlantic United States.

US LEC has a network of Lucent 5ESS® AnyMedia™ digital switches and Lucent CBX500 ATM data switches deploying advanced switching technology. US LEC's intelligent network is designed to support many innovative services.

How do our customers benefit from US LEC's network strategy? By owning and operating our own network, US LEC invests time, money and resources into the products and services we deliver to our customers. The quality and reliability of our network translates into improved operations for our customers. We maximize the use of our network to ensure the most cost-effective service is passed along to our customers.

- ▲ Network features
- ▲ Network allies
- ▲ Connectivity
- ♣ Vendor contracts

...

Network features
With expert account executives working individually with its customers, US LEC can unleash the power of the state-of-the-art telecommunications network to work for the customer. US LEC offers a powerful array of network features including CLASS, custom tailored to fit individual customer requirements, at competitive rates. The individual attention customers receive from US LEC makes it easy; the US LEC network, with its Lucent, Alcatel and Juniper switches and routers, makes it possible.

- Lucent 5ESS® switch - The Lucent 5ESS® is the premier carrier-class, central office switch in the industry today. The subject of a continuing, intensive effort by Lucent to keep up-to-date with the changing telecom environment, the 5ESS® offers the full range of products and features business customers need.

- Lucent CBX500 ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) switch - The CBX500 provides data switching capabilities including native ATM services and frame relay. It features advanced network capabilities at minimal cost to the customer. The CBX500 also offers a wide

range of software and hardware fault tolerances that allow continued service through almost any failure, and delivers high-density ATM access and cost-effective, reliable ATM trunking.

- Alcatel Digital Cross Connect Systems (DACS) 1630 and 1631 - These DACs provide ability to mix services on common facilities, such as our Advantage T. The 1630 SX is a next-generation narrowband DCS. The 1631 SX is unparalleled when it comes to system density and capacity.

- Juniper M20 router - The M20 router provides reliable, scalable, and high-speed elements to significantly enhance US LEC's Internet access service. It is one of the fastest routers available in the industry today, and it interpolates with Lucent Technologies' CBX500 Frame Relay/ATM switch to provide one of the most advanced operational data networks. Juniper's multiple protocols support ATM, PPP and MLPPP.

- CLASS - Custom Local-Area Signaling Service is a product-set of advanced telecom features business customers need. Features include CLID (Calling Line Identification) and CNAM (Caller ID with Name), and call-screening and forwarding in association with reception of that information. These are implemented using SS7 technology.

- SS7 - US LEC runs a state-of-the-art SS7 network to provide fast call connections, least-costs routing and to enable advanced service features on our advanced intelligent network (AIN) platform. SS7 has emerged as the standard in current telephony signaling.

- AIN - In the interest of meeting customer needs consistent with the service they receive from the large incumbent local phone companies, US LEC has deployed a fully redundant Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) platform. Our AIN platform includes proven signaling transfer points (STP) from Tekelec, and service control points (SCP) and a service creation environment (SCE) from Lucent Technologies. This AIN platform allows US LEC to actively query large databases using SS7 signaling, during a phone call. Some examples of service enabled by AIN platforms include Caller ID + Name, and Follow Me Number service.

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Network allies:

- ADTRAN

  ADTRAN

- Lucent Technologies

  Lucent Technologies
  Bell Labs Innovations

- Alcatel

- Juniper Networks

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--- **About Us**

The company

US LEC (Nasdaq: CLEC) is a telecommunications carrier providing voice, data and Internet services to business customers throughout the southeastern and mid-Atlantic United States. US LEC was founded in 1996 and is headquartered in Charlotte, NC.

Employees
More than 900 employees throughout the US LEC network

Customers
More than 8400 medium and large-sized business customers

Switching centers
26 switching centers:

Atlanta	Jacksonville	Norfolk
Baltimore	Knoxville	Orlando
Birmingham	Louisville	Philadelphia
Charleston	Memphis	Pittsburgh
Charlotte	Miami	Raleigh
Chattanooga	Mobile	Richmond
Fort Myers/Naples	Nashville	Tampa
Greensboro	New Orleans	W. Palm Beach
		Washington, DC

Markets
More than 70 markets served

Services
US LEC currently offers local, long distance, calling card, toll free, dedicated Internet, digital private line and frame relay services to customers in selected markets in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and the District of Columbia. In addition to the states listed above, US LEC also offers selected voice and data services in Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio and Texas.

Revenues
US LEC's revenues for the quarter ended June 30, 2002, increased 37% to $58.8 million, compared with $43.1 million for the quarter ended June 30, 2001, and 9% sequentially compared to $53.9 million reported in the first quarter of 2002. EBITDA for the second quarter was $2.1 million, compared to an EBITDA loss of ($4.9) million in the second quarter of 2001 and positive EBITDA of $0.7 million in the first quarter of 2002.

Switches:

- ▲ Lucent 5ESS® AnyMedia™ digital switches
- ▲ Lucent CBX500 ATM data switches
- ▲ Alcatel MegaHub® 600ES tandem switch
- ▲ Juniper M20 IP gateway routers

Equipment allies:

- ▲ ADTRAN

  ADTRAN

- ▲ Lucent Technologies

  Lucent Technologies

- ▲ Alcatel
- ▲ Juniper Networks

Products

Innovative products & services

Featured products

US LEC develops and delivers innovative telecommunications products to meet various business needs. US LEC customers gain the competitive edge through rapid deployment of new technologies, customized services for diverse applications and highly competitive pricing.

We offer an array of local, long distance, data and Internet services and can also bundle any of our services to meet our customers' needs. Our ADVANTAGE T facility allows the flexibility of bundling, but at one flat rate.

We work diligently to identify and analyze our customers' requirements and develop the best solution to address specific needs. Find out more about US LEC products and services below. For more information or to order, please contact the salesperson in your area.

- ▲ ADVANTAGE T
- ▲ Local services
- ▲ Long distance and toll-free services
- ▲ Internet and enhanced data services
- ▲ Additional services
- ▲ Service guarantee and Service Level Agreements

ADVANTAGE T
Bundle multiple voice and data services on this single T-1 facility for one simple rate. ADVANTAGE T features bandwidth allocation to give customers control over the specific amount of bandwidth required for each service they choose. Traditionally, a T-1 facility, which comprises the actual lines and trunks that carry telecommunications traffic, is subject to individual pricing for each service carried. With ADVANTAGE T, customers can combine any of the following services at a single price: local, long distance, inbound, outbound, toll-free, digital private line and US LECnet (dedicated high-speed Internet access).

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Local services
Since early 1997, US LEC has provided its business clients with competitive, reliable local phone service. We continue to enter new markets so more businesses can take advantage of the reliability and quality of the US LEC network.
Details

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Long distance and toll-free services
US LEC customers benefit from the highest sound quality over US LEC's network. As an added benefit, we also bundle local and long distance services to maximize use of customers' existing access facilities, and to provide a single, consolidated invoice for all calling.

Long distance network access is done over the same high-quality facilities used to connect to the local network or by "LD Only Access T-1." By using a single access connection for both local and long distance calling, customers can realize additional economies of scale, in addition to the simplicity this provides to their networks.

Because US LEC consolidates customers' local and long distance calling, customers who previously could not justify dedicated access are using US LEC's dedicated access plans.
Details

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Internet and enhanced data services
In addition to local and long distance services, US LEC has developed creative products for specific markets.
Details

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Additional services
US LEC customers vary, as do their telecommunications requirements. Our customer base comprises businesses from many different industries, so we tailor our products to meet diverse applications.
Details

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Service guarantee and Service Level Agreements
US LEC guarantees the quality of its service and the satisfaction of its customers.
Details

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About Us

Current advertisements

What is US LEC saying about US LEC? Take a look at our current advertisements to discover why we're an industry leader, and how we're spreading the word.
*Free Acrobat Reader required to view full ads.

Print ads
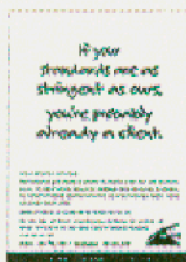
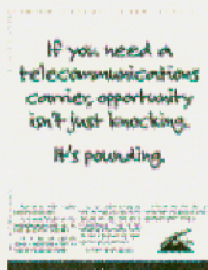"If your standards are as stringent as ours, you're probably already a customer."
view

"We're sometimes fuddy, but never duddy."
view

"If you need a telecommunications carrier, opportunity isn't just knocking. It's pounding."
view

"We're quite redundant. We're quite redundant."
view

"Sorry, we don't set trends. Thankfully, we don't follow them either."
view

"When everyone else was zigging, we zagged. Guess who's still zagging?"
view

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The US LEC voice and data network

Network overview

Click on a city to view contact information:

Philadelphia

Pittsburgh

Baltimore

Washington, DC

Richmond

Louisville

Norfolk
Virginia Beach

Greensboro

Knoxville

Raleigh

Nashville

Charlotte

Memphis   Chattanooga

Charleston

Birmingham

Atlanta

Mobile   Jacksonville

New Orleans   Orlando

Tampa

Ft. Myers   West Palm
Beach

Miami
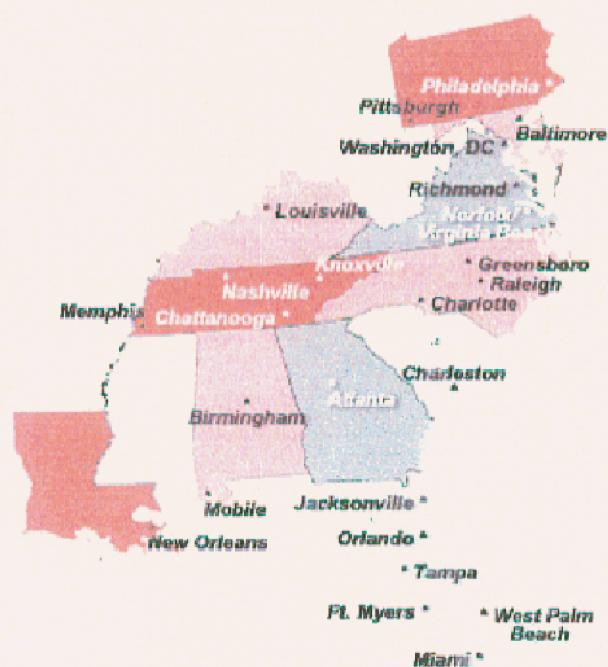
WELCOME TO US LEC.

We are a telecommunications
carrier providing integrated
voice, data and Internet
services. Headquartered in
Charlotte, NC, we serve
major cities throughout
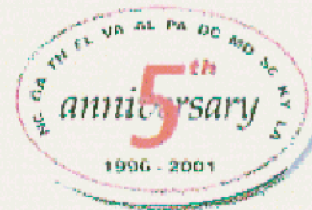the southeastern and
mid-Atlantic United States

4-30-02

US LEC appoints new
director in Baltimore
more...

Featured products & services:
ADVANTAGE Flat Rate
ATM product suite
US LECnet Dial
Internet Gateway
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Our Story

XO Communications is a full service provider of communication services, dedicated to world-class, 24x7 customer care and to providing simple solutions for all businesses -- from ones just starting to grow to Fortune 500 companies.

XO™: a unique name for a unique company.

By "unique," we mean:

* we are customer-centric
* we have a robust product portfolio,
* we have a leadership team of seasoned telecommunications professionals and
* we have the financial resources to ensure we're here for the long haul.

Together, these pieces help XO realize its vision of redefining telecommunications by putting our customers at the center. That's why we're "not just talk." It's a promise of who we are and what we deliver as a company.

Proven Financial Stability

XO has a solid business plan that continually attracts investors.

For example, Forstmann Little and TELMEX have signed a definitive agreement to invest $400 million each -- $800 million total -- in XO. Forstmann Little, aside from this $400 million investment, has already made a $1.5 billion investment in XO. Forstmann Little has investments in such profitable companies as Gulf Stream, General Instrument and Ziff Davis Publishing -- and we believe that Forstmann Little is committed to seeing this business become profitable as well.

TELMEX is a world-class, full-service telecommunications company based in Mexico City with a presence in the United States, Puerto Rico and Brazil. Formerly owned by the Mexican Government, TELMEX was privatized in 1990 and is positioned to remain at the forefront of telecommunications in the Americas.

What do we spend all that money on?

1. Network Assets

Network assets allow us to create solutions that help you solve your business problems.

The organic growth of our network has been our key achievement that allows us to deliver products and services to you, simply and cost-effectively.

In 1994, XO began building metropolitan fiber networks. Over the years, we've grown to serve more than 60 markets with metro fiber. This means XO is able to provision the "last mile," giving us full control over our network ensuring the highest levels of oversight and security. The XO network also includes:

- 2000 on-network buildings
- Access to an additional 63,000 buildings
- Fixed wireless licenses covering 95% of the top U.S. business markets
- 5 data centers and a 24x7x365 network operations center
- 380-plus DSL access points
- 200+ Tier One peering Points of Presence (POPs).
- OC-192 backbone covering the U.S.
- **Total fiber**: approximately 1,140,000 miles

2. Customer Support Systems

At XO, we've made a big commitment to -- and investment in -- customer care. We believe you deserve to talk to live human beings

That's why XO offers 24x7 live support and dedicated care representatives for Enterprise customers. But we also know that not all customers want to talk to someone; that's why we offer online tools as another component of the systems that make XO unique.

Equally, XO believes it's critical to have systems behind our employees to support them in helping you. So we make a strong investment in the tools to make our folks effective -- and to make sure your expectations are fully met.

3. Products

Our comprehensive product suite ensures we have the flexibility to meet your needs at all stages of your business growth.

Our portfolio includes:

- a suite of Voice offerings that includes inbound and outbound services as well as calling card and conferencing,
- a variety of Internet Access choices,
- Private Data Networking services that designed to meet all of your networking needs,
- a comprehensive set of Hosting Services and
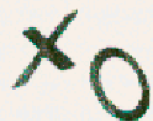- Integrated Services like our market-leading XOptions™

And, because we own our network assets, our services are delivered with 100% accountability.

So whether your needs are on a product-by-product basis or by industry needs, XO can give you what you need, simply -- and with the choice and flexibility to meet those needs.

See also:

XO Network
Product Portfolio
Board of Directors
Executive Management

XO™ Local Services

XO™ Has a Local Service Solution to Fit Your Business Needs

With XO™, you get a wide range of reliable local service offerings at competitive rates. From business lines to digital T-1 solutions, from three-way calling to message routing, XO Local Services are available on a **nationwide basis**. If you have multiple locations in various XO markets you will be able to buy the same products everywhere XO serves, making it easier to do business with XO. So whether you need a Business Trunk in New York or a Centrex line in California, you can find it all with **one supplier**, with **one point of contact**, all on **one bill**.

Product Family

- Basic Business Lines
- Business Trunks
- Centrex
- Voice Messaging
- ISDN Service
- Directory Assistance and Operator Services

Maximize your savings potential with National Local.

Features and Benefits

- A complete range of local services
- Standardized product features and functionality
- Nationwide offering -- available in one market or in many
- High-quality calling, productivity-enhancing options and voice mail features
- Competitive pricing
- Single invoice

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- Business Trunks
- Centrex
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- ISDN Service
- Directory Assistance and Operator Services

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› ISDN PRI
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Overview

The XO™ IP network consists of three main network elements:

- A core **OC-192** (10Gb) IP backbone
- Peering infrastructure to the Internet
- Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) and Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) access POPs in the local markets

View Network Map

Core OC-192 IP Backbone

The core of the North American XO backbone is a mesh of OC-192 circuits, connecting the XO Peering POPs and XO Data Centers

XO has completed an OC-192 IP backbone that runs completely across its own Inter-city facilities. Using a mesh of physically diverse OC-192 circuits, this backbone interconnects our five data centers in the United States with multiple high-capacity peering interconnections. Additionally, XO offers DIA, DSL and Dial customers enhanced Internet connectivity by connecting each DIA market to the OC-192 backbone with dual OC-12c SONET-protected circuits*. This network design delivers our customers' maximum end-to-end throughput, as well as high levels of protection and redundancy. The XO OC-192 backbone is an advanced IP network design ensuring scalability to accommodate our growth in the future as well as the added benefit of no single IP point of failure past the customers' access port. In addition because the XO OC-192 IP network backbone and market connections are run end-to-end across XO facilities, XO can quickly resolve any problems that may occur without any delays. This design eliminates many of the common failure points found in older network designs. The XO OC-192 backbone was designed with this efficiency and redundancy in order to meet our customers' future IP needs.

Peering Infrastructure

XO is a Tier-1 Internet backbone provider in the United States and has over 100 public and private peering arrangements with other large Internet backbones. As one of only a handful of Tier-1 Internet providers in the world, XO is constantly improving its peering infrastructure to benefit our

customers. Today, those advantages include:

ORIGINAL

- Multiple and geographically redundant dedicated connections to other Tier-1 Internet backbones. Dedicated or private connections mean traffic exchanges between the XO backbone and the peering partner's backbone only. Customers will directly benefit from packets to and from the peering networks reaching their end destination quickly and without any loss.
- XO peering relationships are monitored and maintained 24x7 and upgraded as needed.
- Quality control of the XO network and independence from relying on another network for Internet connectivity.

Connectivity from Internet Access POPs to the XO™ backbone

XO currently offers Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) connections in **36 Metro POPs in 31 markets** and Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) connections in **45 markets**. All DIA markets are connected to the closest OC-192 IP Core Node. This connectivity is accomplished with **dual SONET-protected OC-12C circuits** for a **minimum of 1.2Gbps** of connectivity into each DIA market.*

Data Centers

XO has five data centers in the United States:

- San Jose, CA
- Fremont, CA
- Irvine, CA
- Chicago, IL
- Secaucus, NJ.

All XO data centers are connected to at least two different OC-192 IP Core Node and have multiple and diverse fiber paths into the data center.

Take a Virtual Tour of our data centers

Metro Fiber Connectivity

The **XO Metro Area Networks (MANs)** are the primary weapons in our arsenal of assets that provide an invaluable access to the end customer, an ability to control customer traffic and an efficient data transfer to the Inter-city network. The XO domestic and Metro Area Networks spans **spans 430,000 fiber miles throughout 40 major US cities**, including the largest 30 cities in the United States.

These MANs provide XO with an unparalleled means to differentiate itself from non-facilities based providers, or long haul providers, that do not have access to the end customer. The XO state-of-the-art Metro Area Networks enables XO to offer such dynamic products as Ethernet Services and **Dense Wave Division Multiplexing (DWDM)** that carry data faster and more efficiently than our competition.

Wireless Spectrum

XO owns the largest footprint of fixed wireless spectrum, which covers 95% of the population in the top 30 U.S. cities. The frequency of the spectrum is 28-GHz and allows XO to offer broadband access services using **Local to Multipoint Distribution System (LMDS)** technology. This product enables XO to bypass the Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOCs) and provide direct access to our end customers.

The Inter City Fiber Network

XO has deployed an OC-192 (10 Gbps) network using DWDM routing technology. This **Inter-city network spans 16,000 route miles** across the continental United States. The extensive Inter-city and Metro reach of the XO fiber network affords XO the unprecedented ability to manage customer data from the point of access to the point of termination. Owning such a vast network facility gives XO the power to scale immediately to meet customer demand, quickly respond to network issues and control prices charged to customers.

FOOTNOTES:
* The Minneapolis and Spokane market are connected via dual OC-3c circuits, for more than 300 Mbps of connectivity.

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